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Andover Township Is First Sussex County Municipality to Adopt Technology Disposal Program

Ogdensburg, NJ. Melanie Haga, President of Back Thru The Future (BTTF) in Ogdensburg and Tim Day, Andover Township CFO, jointly announce the participation of Andover Township in BTTF's new municipal technology disposal program. The municipal program follows BTTF's highly successful computer recycling program for Sussex County public schools.

Haga notes, "Properly disposing of obsolete or defective electronics is a national problem. Disposal of this type represents both environmental and data privacy challenges. As a recycling facility, BTTF works closely with the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA). Recycling rates across the state have been declining. Earlier this year we were made aware of heightened pressure by the state on Sussex County to improve its rates of recycling. Electronics are one of the reported recycling categories. With the cooperation of SCMUA and other Sussex County officials, we put together a plan to improve the awareness of the need to recycle electronics and offer a low cost and convenient electronic recycling program for Sussex County."

The first program to come from this plan was a free public school computer recycling program. In the first 5 months, fifty thousand pounds of retired computer equipment was collected from Sussex County schools. The new municipal program also offers free recycling, but has incorporated the shredding of hard drives to meet with the state's mandated data privacy requirements. A recent data breach borne by the Ewing Township Police department emphasizes the need for stringent data destruction procedures.

According to Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator for the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority, "The SCMUA has had an active and increasingly successful electronics recycling program in place in Sussex County for over 5 years. Each year, the amount of consumer electronics that are being diverted from the landfill has more than doubled. The cooperative relationship that the SCMUA has with BTTF has fostered additional opportunities for school districts within the county to properly (and safely) dispose of obsolete electronic equipment. It is encouraging that the BTTF's school electronic recycling program has collected 25 tons since its implementation. The SCMUA views the new BTTF municipal program as another valuable recycling opportunity in Sussex County."

Bob Schultz, Director of Public Works at Hardyston Township was a key person in the development of the program as it relates to municipal needs. "Because of the small-town nature of this area, municipal personnel may wear several different hats. Finding the right person and getting their attention could prove difficult", he said. Adding, "Low cost and convenience are essential characteristics to any municipal recycling program."

"We use technology extensively here at Andover Township in order to get our work done efficiently, says CFO, Tim Day. "A by-product of this technology utilization is a small but constant stream of broken or obsolete electronics. We were aware that we couldn't simply throw this



material in the trash, but did not have a municipal procedure for proper disposal. We became aware of BTTF through our police chief, who had attended a meeting where BTTF presented a disposal alternative. After contacting BTTF, we were given an outline of the new program and were invited to visit their Ogdensburg facility. Several members of the town administration including Councilman Bob Smith, Recycling Coordinator Robyn Hattersley, Police Chief Philip Coleman and I, made the short trip up Route 517. We were thoroughly impressed with BTTF's facility, procedures and capabilities and felt their program represented a perfect solution to our unique security issues while able to meet NJ DARM requirements. We were surprised at the size and scope of their operations, located right here in Sussex County."

Eric Snyder, Sussex County Planning Director offers, "Sussex County feels that BTTF is the kind of facility that can serve as a valuable resource in the County Recycling effort. We still throw away an unreasonable quantity of electronics. This threatens water quality and our quality of life. As the need for electronic recycling expands, we are happy to work with BTTF to facilitate improved electronic recycling activity for the area. As state mandated electronic recycling programs take effect, it is to our advantage to use local resources."

Finally, Haga concludes, "Back Thru The Future brings good news with a program that handily solves the electronics recycling issue by coming up with an economically viable way to mix environmental stewardship with good business practices". ###

Back Thru The Future ("BTTF") (www.backthruthefuture.com) is a recognized industry leader in the proper environmental handling of electronics and secure data destruction for hard drives, PDAs, cell phones, cds and backup media. Based in Ogdensburg, New Jersey with close proximity to New York City, BTTF is a Certified Women's Business Enterprise (WBE). The company was founded by Melanie J. Haga in 1990 as one of the first computer recycling companies in the United States. BTTF clients include Fortune 500 companies, large law firms, pharmaceutical companies and hospitals, financial/accounting firms and federal, state and local government agencies.